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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I grew up on the east coast where the only option for a very long time was Comcast. As Comcast started buying up other smaller ISP's, I saw the price gradually increase, and the quality of service drastically decrease. This trend continued, with no marked improvements in service corresponding to the increases in price - until Verizon began rolling out FiOS service. Suddenly every neighborhood that had Fios was getting intense price competition, and additional attention/speed/care in service. Competition is good.

When I moved to California, I was lucky enough to be in a neighborhood with 4 options, including a fiber Internet-only provider called Sonic. I chose Sonic because they are a smaller, local, agile company that actually cares about their consumers. Their price for full gigabit Internet is so great that it blows Comcast and AT&T (and the 3rd DSL option) out of the water, and as a former customer of two other members of the competition, I can say that it is the best Internet service I've ever received. Competition is good. Xfinity customers in the city here get better service than those elsewhere. Broadband is critical infrastructure. We're living in a world that's moving towards all-streaming media, including new innovative services like Google's Stadia, which conservative estimates have people blowing through the grossly unnecessary data caps that the larger providers impose in days instead of one month.

When I travel to visit my family in Louisiana, I am shocked at how terrible their broadband is. Some of them have no choice but extremely slow DSL. Some of them have only one cable company which provides terrible cable Internet service. We need to prevent the large monopolistic incumbents, many of whom received ridiculous public subsidies or tax incentives to grow their business and then failed to deliver on the promises (Verizon Fios deployment in the northeast for example), from being able to further stifle the competition. They already have a ridiculous competitive advantage. We should not rig the system against smaller local competition because it is critical for creating a robust, evolving, and improving broadband landscape.

My Internet here in San Francisco where there is robust competition is the most reliable, fastest, and best customer experience I've ever received in any of the regions I've lived. It's so good that it would be a major loss factor if we ever had to move elsewhere for any reason. Please structure your

policy decisions to support competition - I am living the results in a city where competition has thrived, and it is the best customer experience. Thank you kindly for your time and consideration.

Brandon Lodriguss